pattern better distinguishes the two: *S. juncea* has leaves scarcely or not at all triple-nerved and 2-7.5 cm wide, while *S. missouriensis* has leaves more or less strongly triple-nerved, often less than 2 cm wide.

One chromosome count, $n=9$, was made for *S. juncea*, agreeing with other published counts for the species. The voucher is: ALABAMA: Jackson Co., *Morton 3366* (TENN).—*Gary H. Morton, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York, 10458.*

DIRCA PALUSTRIS (THYMELAEACEAE): NEW TO LOUISIANA.—Nevling (Jour. Arnoid Arb. 43:432. 1962) did not include Louisiana in the range of *Dirca palustris L.* In personal correspondence (1970) he indicated he was not aware of *D. palustris* having previously been collected from Louisiana. In Caldwell Parish I found a large population of this species covering several acres and scattered throughout two branches of a large valley in the drainage of Winn Branch 8 miles NNW of Columbia. In some places the plants formed extensive thickets.

Leatherwood is often viewed as a facultative calciphile. I have collected it on limestone cliffs in Sevier Co., Tenn. and Independence Co., Ark. In Caldwell Parish it occurs on sandy moist soil in forests of *Fagus grandifolia, Liriodendron tulipifera,* and various *Quercus.* It is most abundant on the floor of deep valleys but spreads up adjoining slopes. It flowers in late February and the fruits fall by late April. There is disagreement in literature about the fruit color. In Louisiana the mature fruits are greenish yellow, turning purple as they dry before or after falling.

The stems of leatherwood are very flexible; descriptions in literature often give the impression that the wood is pliable. However, the wood itself is extremely brittle; it is the bark that is pliable.

Voucher specimens (*Thomas et al. 12828,* 28 Feb 1969) are available for exchange and are on deposit at SMU and GH.—*R. Dale Thomas, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, Louisiana 71201.*

A NEW SPECIES OF FRANKENIA (FRANKENIACEAE) FROM GYPSEOUS SOIL OF NORTH CENTRAL MEXICO.—FRANKENIA **leverichii** Turner, sp. nov. Plantae perennes suffruticosae usque ad 3 dm altae. Caules parce ramosi farinosi. Rami oppositi basi fragiles pallide brunnei alibi griseo-virides ca. 1 mm diametro. Internodia 7-10 mm longa. Folia opposita obovata-elliptica vel elliptica 4-5 mm longa 1.0-1.5 mm lata apiculata basi attenuata supra minute pubescentia subtus farinosa margine revoluto. Petioli ca. 1 mm longi alati ciliati alis trans nodo confluentibus. Flores solitarii axillares pedicellis 2-3 mm longis bracteis 4 ca. 3 mm longis 1 mm latis. Calycis tubus manifeste 5-costatus 2-3 mm longus griseo-virides sed costae basi purpurescentes. Calycis lobi 5 ca. 1 mm longi. Petala 5 unguiculata oblanceolata pallide rosea apice erosa calycem 1.5 mm superantes. Petali dimidium inferum paginae ventralis squama lineari ligulari. Stamina saepe

6 (raro 12 verticillis hexandris primum visum univerticillata), Antherae 1 mm longae basifixae. Filamenta alata alis conspicuis membranaceis ca. 0.5 mm latis. Pistillum 6.5 mm altum. Styli rami 3 ca. 3 mm longi.

Sparingly branched suffruticose perennial to 3 dm high; stems branching oppositely, farinose, light brown and brittle below, grayish green above, ca. 1 mm in diameter; internodes 7-10 mm long; leaves opposite, obovate-elliptic to elliptic, apiculate, attenuate at the base, 4-5 mm long, 1.0-1.5 mm wide, margins revolute, the upper surface minutely pubescent, the lower surface farinose; petiole short, winged, ca. 1 mm long, with ciliate margin united with that of the opposite leaf; flowers solitary in the leaf axils on pedicels 2-3 mm long, subtended by four leaflike bracts 2-3 mm long and 1-2 mm wide; calyx tube strongly 5-ribbed, 2-3 mm long with 5 acute lobes 1 mm long, purplish on the ribs at the base, otherwise grayish green; petals 5, clawed, pale pink, oblanceolate, erose at the apex, exceeding the calyx by 1.5 mm, with a linear ligular scale on the lower half of the ventral surface; stamens mostly 6, but occasionally 12, 6 long (5 mm) and 6 short (4 mm), in 2 whorls of 6 each but appearing as a single whorl; anthers 1 mm long, basifixed, filaments with conspicuous membranous wings ca. 0-5 mm wide; pistil 6.5 mm high; ovary unilocular with 3 basally attached anatropous ovules, style branches 3, about half the length of the gynoecium, terminated by well-defined stigmatic lines.

HOLOTYPE (TEX): MEXICO: Nuevo León: 100 km NW of Monterrey. Perennial in gypseous soil. 3 Sept 1971. *J. D. Bacon, W. R. Leverich,* & *B. L. Turner 1076.* Isotypes to be distributed.

The species is found primarily on relatively barren gypseous hills and ridges dominated by two other gypsophilic endemics, *Coldenia* cf. *hispidissima* (Torr.) Gray, and *Haplopappus johnstonii* Blake. It also occurs along alluvial washes with a number of saliniferous species belonging to *Allenrolfea, Sesuvium, Suaeda,* and *Atriplex.*

Frankenia leverichii is apparently most closely related to *F. johnstonii* Correll, a recently described, white-flowered, shrubby species from southern Texas. The number of known species of *Frankenia* from North America has doubled in the last 2 decades (from 4 to 8); four of the most recently described are gypsophilic endemics of north central Mexico and adjacent Texas.

The species is named for Mr. William Richard Leverich, "quasi-hippie" and part-time graduate student in plant systematics at the University of Texas, who shared with me the pleasure of discovering this rare endemic. Actually, when it was first found, I could not believe we had chanced upon yet another new species in the genus, so I remarked with my usual enthusiastic abandon, "Richard, if this is new, I'll name it for you." The remark caught me off guard and I'm now honor-bound to deliver on the promise. I hope this act of commitment will encourage an otherwise too

relaxed student to get on with his doctoral study of *Isocoma*.

I am grateful to Dr. M. C. Johnston for the Latin description and to Mr.

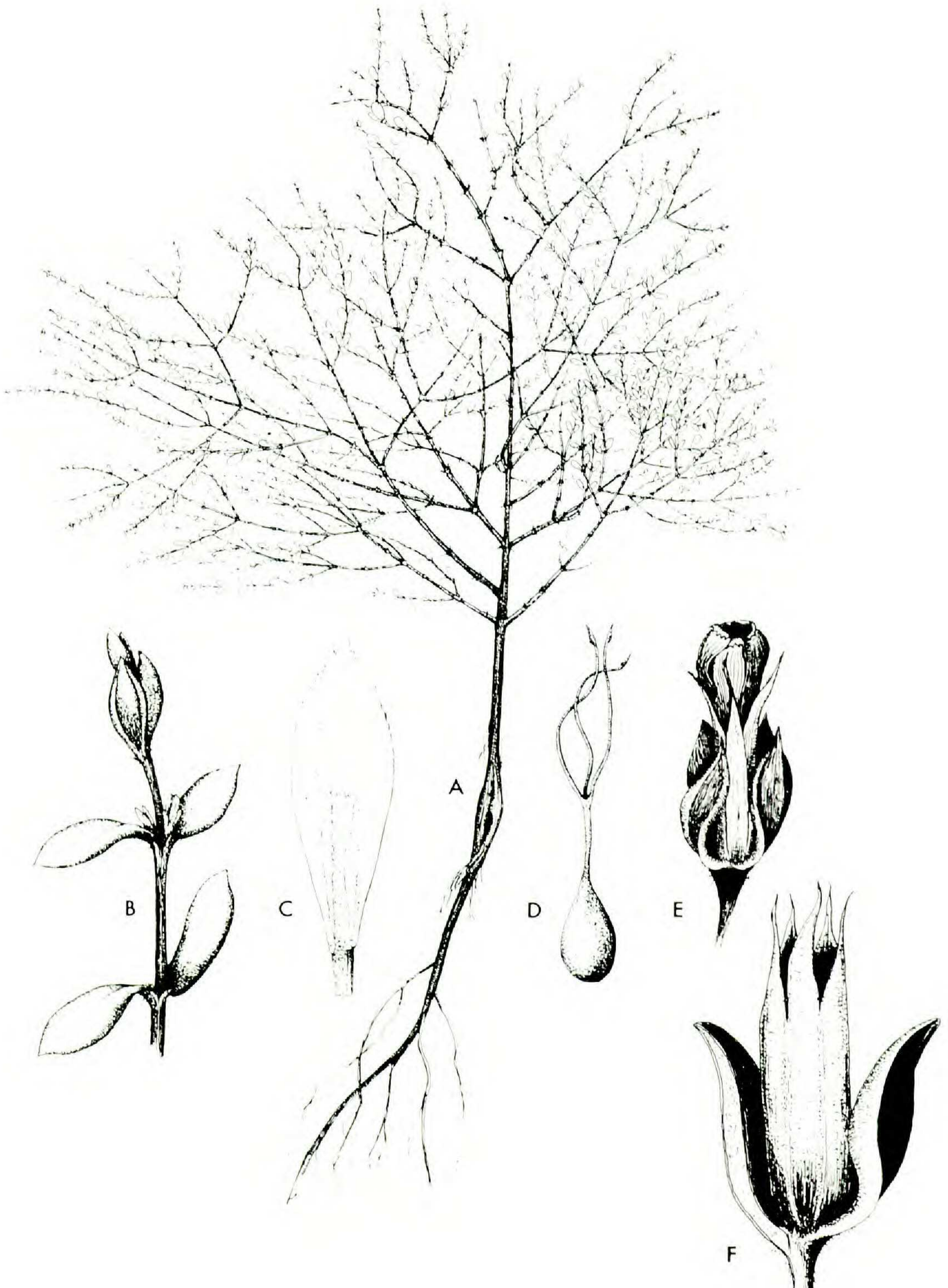

Fig. 1. *Frankenia leverichii*. A. Habit, X ½; B. Branch, X 3; C. Petal, X 9; D. Pistil, X 9; E. Bud, X 3; F. Fruiting calyx, X 10.

Geza Knipfer for the excellent line drawings. Field support for this study was provided in part by NSF grant 29576X.—*B. L. Turner, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712.*

COMMENTS ON NEW MEXICO FLORA.—This is the first of an anticipated series of notes presenting new information on the flora of New Mexico. Specimens are deposited in the herbarium of New Mexico State University (NMC) and for *Silene plankii*, the University of Washington (WTU) and the New York Botanical Garden (NY), and *Perityle lemmoni* Sul Ross State University (SRSC). Discussion follows each entry.

Silene plankii Hitchc. & Maguire. Dona Ana County: crevices at base of sheer granite cliffs in box canyon, Long Canyon, Organ Mountains, *Todsen 700802* (2 August 1970), *Todsen 700815* (15 August 1970), *R & M Spellenberg & Todsen 2401* (25 September 1970). These are the first collections in New Mexico since Plank's original one in 1895. Correll collected *S. plankii* in the Franklin Mountains, El Paso County, Texas about 1965.

Heuchera sanguinea Engelm. Hidalgo County: base of rock face above Turkey Spring, Animas Mountains, *Todsen & Johnson* 25 September 1966. Previously reported only from southern Arizona in the US.

Polygala rimulicola Steyerm. Dona Ana County: appressed on NE limestone cliff faces in crevices, Black Mountain, southern San Andres Mountains at 5400 feet, *Todsen 2258*, 18 June 1972. Previously known only from the type locality in the Guadalupe Mountains of West Texas.

Eryngium lemmoni Coulter & Rose. Hidalgo County: open damp meadow near head of Cloverdale Creek, *Todsen* August 1972. Known only from SE Arizona.

Laphamia cernua Greene. Dona Ana County: NW granite seep face at the bottom of canyon, 1 mi W of Organ Peak, Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mountains, *Todsen* 4 July 1965; NE monzonite cliff face, Findley Canyon, Organ Mountains, *Todsen* July 1970; base of overhanging granite cliff, ½ mi E of Fillmore Spring, Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mountains, *Todsen* 6 August 1970; under overhangs and on N and E cliff faces, Long Canyon, Organ Mountains, *Todsen* 15 August 1970. This narrow endemic had been collected three times previously, all from a single cliff face near Dripping Springs, Ice Canyon, Organ Mountains. These new locations assure that this species will not become extinct.

Perityle lemmoni (Gray) McBride. Hidalgo County: limestone cliffs in canyon at NE end of Big Hatchet Mountains, *Todsen 2001*, 28 August 1971. Known only from southern Arizona.

Senecio salignus DC. Hidalgo County: in sandy loam of creek bottom, Guadalupe Canyon, Johnson's Lower Ranch, *Todsen 9-11*, 23 February 1969. Reported only from southern Arizona in the US.—*Thomas K. Todsen, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico 88002.*
